

To: Board of Directors

Date: September 6, 2023

Committee Schedule and Agenda for the WRC Board of Directors Board Meeting, **Wednesday, September 13, 2023.**

Attached, is the Agenda for the **September 13, 2023, WRC Board of Directors Board Meeting** which **will be held virtually on Zoom Webinar.**

*All Board of Directors will receive a link inviting you to be a panelist at the September 13, 2023 meeting. On the day of Board meeting, **please click on your link to ensure you join the meeting as a panelist (speaker).** **This link is unique to you and should not be shared with anyone else.**

All members of the public who wish to attend the meeting should follow these instructions to register:

1. Sign up for a [free Zoom account](#) if they have not already done so
2. [Click on this link to register](#) to attend the meeting
 - Attendees will be asked for their name and email address
 - This is so we can take attendance instead of using a sign-in sheet
 - Attendees will receive an email with a link to join the meeting
 - **Webinar ID: 894 7900 5288 • Password: 014252**
3. On the day and time of the meeting, attendees should click the link to join and enter the password.
 - Spanish interpretation will be available upon entering the meeting

The public session Call-to-Order is scheduled for 6:30 PM. Much of the work of the Board is done in the WRC various committees, including Finance, Political Action, Client Services, and others. Your participation is needed and welcomed.

The following Committees are scheduled to meet:

Committee Name	Date & Time	Location
Board Development Committee	September 12 th , 4:00 p.m.	ZOOM Video Conference
Client Services Committee	September 5 th , 5:00 p.m.	Hybrid: Zoom/WRC
Consumer Advisory Committee	September 19 th , 5:00 p.m.	Carlson Park 10400 Braddock Dr. Culver City
Finance Committee	September 13, 5:00 p.m.	ZOOM Video Conference
Policy Committee	TBD	TBD
Political Action & Outreach Committee	September 12 th , 5:00 p.m.	ZOOM Video Conference
Self Determination	September 12 th , 6:00 p.m.	ZOOM Video Conference
Service Provider Advisory Committee	September 19 th , 10:30 a.m.	ZOOM Video Conference



BOARD OF DIRECTORS BOARD MEETING
COASTAL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES FOUNDATION
5901 GREEN VALLEY CIRCLE • SUITE 320 • CULVER CITY, CA 90230

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Via Zoom

6:00 PM – Closed Session • 6:30 PM – Public Session

A G E N D A

1. Closed Session

4663 (a) (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (b)

'Real estate', 'appointment, employment, evaluation, of performance or dismissal of a Regional Center employee'. 'Pending litigation'. Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 4660.

2. Public Session Call to Order

- Welcome
- Mission Statement
- Code of Conduct
- Roll Call of Board Members – Quorum

Vanda Yung

Terry Magady

Jennifer E. Cohen

Vanda Yung

3. President's Report

Vanda Yung

4. Executive Director's Report

Jane Borochoff

5. Public Comment on Agenda Items

6. APPROVAL of Minutes of July 12, 2023

Vanda Yung – ACTION

7. Committee Reports

Board Development

- **APPROVAL** of Adriana Madrigal for 2 Year Term (2023-2025)
- **APPROVAL** of Dr. Wakelin McNeel for 2 Year Term (2023-2025)

Jennifer E. Cohen

Vanda Yung – ACTION

Vanda Yung – ACTION

Client Services

Dr. Wakelin McNeel

Finance

- **APPROVAL** of Acceptance of IRS 990 Tax Form for 2021-2022

Kyle Jones

Vanda Yung – ACTION

Policy

Terry Magady

Political Action (PAC)

Zoey Giesberg

Service Provider Advisory (SPAC)

Joan Elaine Anderson

Consumer Advisory

8. Public Comment

9. Adjournment

Vanda Yung – ACTION

Pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code 4660 (c), time shall be allowed for public input on all properly noticed agenda items prior to board action on that item.

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.



Mission Statement

It is WRC's mission to support people with developmental disabilities, their families, and communities of choice by facilitating access to person-centered, culturally responsive services and resources.



WESTSIDE
REGIONAL CENTER

WESTSIDE REGIONAL CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETINGS CODE OF CONDUCT

Business etiquette is essential to a well-run, successful meeting. Everyone who attends all WRC Board-related meetings agrees to:

- Understand and promote collaboration by allowing for a productive, safe and welcoming environment;
- Treat everyone with respect and consideration;
- Allow for open and inclusive discussions that do not demean, discriminate, or harass others;
- Refrain from using discriminatory or demeaning language or language that could be considered bullying, threatening or intimidating;
- Critique ideas and suggestions but not individuals;
- Respect the responsibility and authority of the Board Chair in preserving order and decorum; and
- Avoid disrupting others when speaking and waiting for the Board Chair to determine the next speaker(s).

If, after being warned, anyone's actions violate this Meetings Code of Conduct, they may be asked to leave the meeting by the Board Chair.

Board Meetings Code of Conduct was Adopted on June 3rd, 2020.

Amended by the Board of Directors June 8, 2022.



WESTSIDE REGIONAL CENTER

Board of Directors Meeting
Coastal Development Services Foundation

Wednesday, July 12, 2023, 6:30 PM
Via Zoom

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: JoanElaine Anderson Almarietha Mathews
Meshell Baylor Dr. Wakelin McNeel
Jennifer E. Cohen Dr. Christopher Taicher
Zoey Giesberg Fanfan Wang
Adriana Madrigal Vanda Yung
Terry Magady

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kyle Jones

STAFF PRESENT: Jane Borochoff, Peggy Bottger, Stephen Browning, Danny Franco,
Dr. Tom Kelly, Sonya Lowe, Liz Spencer, Megan Tommet-Ramirez

GUESTS: Sonia Hernandez (Interpreter), Antonietta Schulz (Interpreter),
Edwin Pineda (DDS), David Lester, Joseph Allen, Liliana Benjamin,
Nilo Choudhry, Mika Harris, Esther Kelsey, Renee Lewis,
Alexandria Robinson, Todd Rubien, Phala Singleton, Sarah
Thaopaset, Carmen Tripp, David Wyles

CALL TO ORDER (ACTION*)

Meeting was called to order by Board President, Vanda Yung, at 6:39 pm. The Mission Statement, and Meeting Code of Conduct was read.

ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

It was established that the members present represented a quorum necessary pursuant to Section 7.03 (6) of the bylaws of Westside Regional Center which states:

(h) Quorum A majority of the Directors serving on the Board at the time of the meeting of the Board shall constitute quorum at any meeting of the Board

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Vanda Yung, new Board President, stated that this is the first meeting of the new fiscal year and her first meeting as President. She warmly welcomed four new Board members: Meshell Baylor, Fanfan Wang, Almarietha Mathews, and Zoey Giesberg. They each gave a brief self-introduction. Their terms begin July 1st. Vanda appreciated the Board's continuing efforts in working well together. Vanda thanked the following Board members as the new Chairs of their respective Committees: Jennifer E. Cohen, Chair of Board Development, Dr. Wakelin McNeel, Chair of Client Services; Terry Magady, Chair of Policy; Zoey Giesberg, Chair of Political Action.



WESTSIDE REGIONAL CENTER

Vanda shared that July 26 marks the 33rd Anniversary of the historic landmark legislation American Disability Act (ADA), which was passed in 1990. July is a busy month with events such as the Pride celebration. Developmental Disabilities Professionals Day is on July 15th. There is Fourth of July. And, there is the 40th Anniversary of WRC, incorporated in 1983.

WRC celebrated its 40th Anniversary. It was an exciting week-long celebration. One of the days was dedicated to the “Heroes of WRC” on June 29. Staff, old and new, attended Hero’s Day. Outgoing Board members also received recognition for their volunteer service there. The various special events week included the great 40th Anniversary Carnival in the parking lot where the community was invited. There was lively music, food, games and entertainment for all.

Vanda expressed sincere thanks to the HR team for their hard work putting together the successful and creative events week for the 40th Anniversary Celebration.

Vanda reminded Board meeting attendees that there are two sections of the meeting where the public can make comments. Public comments are limited to three minutes. The first public comment is on the agenda items only. Towards the meeting end, there is another public comment section. Individual service issues are not discussed and will be forwarded to staff.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Jane Borochoff stated that July marks the beginning of a new fiscal year and thanked the sitting and new Board members for volunteering their valuable time towards the important WRC mission. Jane also thanked the new, and returning, Officers of the Board: Vanda Yung, Jennifer E. Cohen, Kyle Jones, Dr. Christopher Taicher, and Adriana Madrigal.

Jane shared some pictures of the 40th Anniversary Celebration and reflected on the last 40 years. She thanked the staff, Board, service providers, families, and vendors, for making the 40 years successful. The next 40 will be just as exciting.

Jane also expressed appreciation for the City of Los Angeles for recognizing WRC’s Anniversary with an Official Proclamation and read the Proclamation.

The Governor’s budget and Trailer Bill Language was released, but there will be more to report due to pending bills. The good news is that the fees charged on families to participate in WRC services will be held until the end of the fiscal year. While this is not an entire elimination of fees, DDS will recommend reforms on fees. Until then, fees will be held for one additional year.

Many thanks were given to Sonya Lowe, Director of HR, who led the efforts of the 40th Anniversary events. She also put together a Job Fair at the end of June due to WRC having so many open positions. The Job Fair was very successful. WRC offered 18 new people jobs. Thank you to all who shared the information about the Job Fairs. We still have many open positions.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA (3 minutes)

None



APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 14, 2023 (ACTION*)

Jennifer Cohen, Board Member (Motion) and Dr. Christopher Taicher, Board Member (Second) to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of June 14, 2023. There was no discussion.

11 AYES
0 NO
0 ABSTENTION

The motion passed.

RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 14, 2023.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board Development

Jennifer E. Cohen, Vice President of the Board and Chair of Board Development, stated that she is thankful to be voted by the Committee to continue as Committee Chair. The Committee worked on future training and recruitment of more members. Changes are being made to the current BOD application. They have set recruitment and training goals. In the past fiscal year, the Committee received 23 applications, conducted 19 interviews and added 8 new Board members. The Committee agreed to meet on the second Monday of the month at 4:00 pm. There is mandatory Board training on July 26 on Board Governance, and new Board member orientation on July 29 at WRC.

Finance

Dr. Christopher Taicher, Secretary, reported on behalf of Kyle Jones, Treasurer. WRC has expended 76% of the allocated fiscal budget through May 2023. Considerable money was allocated from DDS to WRC of \$24M for the 2023 fiscal year. The Committee recommends putting the approval of the financial statement audits on the next meeting agenda.

Client Services

Dr. Wakelin McNeel, Committee Chair, stated the Committee had their first hybrid meeting on June 28 and it went well. They agreed to continue the hybrid format. The monthly meeting schedule will be on first Tuesday of the month at 5:00 pm. The next service standards to be worked on will be the Adult Supported Day Services, last updated several years ago. The prior Committee members did a tremendous amount of work and the new members are thankful for their service. Dr. McNeel expressed appreciation for Vanda Yung continuing on the Committee.

Political Action (PAC)

Zoey Giesberg, Committee Chair, encouraged all who are interested to join PAC. We need to educate people on the state and federal policies that affect us all. There is new legislative leadership. Our local Assembly Member Isaac Bryan is now the Assembly majority leader. More to report next time. The Committee meets the second Tuesday of the month at 5:00 pm.



Service Provider Advisory (SPAC)

JoanE Anderson, SPAC Representative, reported they held a hybrid meeting in June. They are pushing for more in-person meetings. Andy Ponce, Director of Community Services, provided an update on different grants that have been allocated. Vendors are having issues hiring and retaining staff. Vendors are trying to figure out how to rectify this. SPAC is excited to have new members. JoanE thanked the WRC staff for a wonderful 40th Anniversary Celebration. SPAC does not meet in August.

Policy

The Policy Committee plans to meet soon to determine the meeting schedule. The amended Whistleblower Policy is included in the meeting packet. It has been updated to include an email address to the Board of Directors as another method of submitting a Whistleblower complaint.

APPROVAL OF WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY (ACTION*)

Dr. Christopher Taicher, Board Member (Motion) and JoanE Anderson, Board Member (Second) the approval of the Whistleblower Policy. There was no discussion.

11	AYES
0	NO
0	ABSTENTION

The motion passed.

RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF THE WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY.

Consumer Advisory (CAC)

The monthly CAC Calendar listing their meetings and events is in the board packet. The Consumer Advisory Committee meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 5:00 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes)

Alexandria Robinson inquired about Intake and a staff member will follow up with her. Nilo Choudhry inquired if there is a central place, like FRC, where families can share generic and free resources especially during summertime and kids out of school. FRC is a great resource hub.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board Meeting was adjourned by Vanda Yung, Board President, at 7:26 pm. The next meeting is August 9, 2023. Everyone was thanked for attending and wished a happy July.

Dr. Christopher Taicher

Board Secretary

Adriana Madrigal

Board Co-Secretary

**WESTSIDE REGIONAL CENTER
BUDGET STATUS REPORT
JUNE 30, 2023
(100% OF THE YEAR)**

	<u>D-2 ANNUAL BUDGET</u>	<u>CURRENT MONTH</u>	<u>YTD EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>% OF BUDGET</u>
<i>Operations</i>	\$ 32,339,287	\$ 3,862,621	\$ 26,903,229	83%
<i>Purchase of Service</i>	<u>\$ 412,751,214</u>	<u>\$ 30,951,756</u>	<u>\$ 353,923,100</u>	<u>86%</u>
	<u>\$ 445,090,501</u>	<u>\$ 34,814,377</u>	<u>\$ 380,826,329</u>	<u>86%</u>

NARRATIVE:

OPERATIONS

WRC's projected expenditures will be within our budget allocation.

PURCHASE OF SERVICE

Based on the D-2 budget allocation, WRC's projected expenditures will be within our budget allocation.

**WESTSIDE REGIONAL CENTER
BUDGET STATUS REPORT
JULY 31, 2023
(8% OF THE YEAR)**

	<i><u>E PRELIMINARY ANNUAL BUDGET</u></i>	<i><u>CURRENT MONTH</u></i>	<i><u>YTD EXPENDITURES</u></i>	<i><u>% OF BUDGET</u></i>
<i>Operations</i>	\$ 21,805,599	\$ 1,604,486	\$ 1,604,486	7%
<i>Purchase of Service</i>	\$ 322,059,127	\$ 27,236,940	\$ 27,236,940	8%
	<u>\$ 343,864,726</u>	<u>\$ 28,841,426</u>	<u>\$ 28,841,426</u>	<u>8%</u>

NARRATIVE:

OPERATIONS

WRC's projected expenditures will be within our budget allocation.

PURCHASE OF SERVICE

Based on the E - Preliminary budget allocation, WRC's projected expenditures will be within our budget allocation.

WRC Political Action Committee

July 11, 2023

Intent: bring in more WRC community members into Political Action, keep abreast of legislation and what to support/oppose, develop community events and training on issues important to community, meet with legislators regularly (get CAC and parent groups out), get speakers to talk about policy issues, educate WRC on political issues

New Legislators

- Schedule visits with new legislators for Fall 2023 (with regional center FAQ materials)

Federal

- Changes to HCBS Rule
-

State

- Need to get trailer bill language
- AB 1147: Disability Equity and Accountability Act of 2023
 - Getting massive edits about term lengths of regional center board members (currently at 7 years served, 1 year off)
 - Possibly includes regional centers to be held to public record
 - ARCA currently opposes unless amended (currently tracking)
- SB 43: expanding "grave disability" to make involuntary detention for mentally disabled easier (note to oppose)
- New State Assembly Leadership
 - Speaker - Robert Rivas
 - Speaker pro tempore - Cecilia a Aguiar-Curry
 - Assistant speaker pro tempore - Stephanie Nguyen
 - Majority leader - Isaac Bryan
 - Majority whip - Lori Wilson

ACTION ITEMS

- Zoom/in-person introductory meetings with new legislators (Fall 2023-Winter 2024)
- Maintain current connections with legislators
- Recruit family groups in Political Action Committee and activities

Good evening, Board Members & Guest:

Here is the report for CAC for September. We are continuing with partnering up other Regional Centers like SLARC, NLA, HR and SCDD. We also attend each other IPP meetings. Here the things that we have been doing so far. On

May 19, 2023

Mindful Fair mental Health

7/25/2023

Hammer Museum

Westside Special Olympics

June 10, 2023

Some of the CAC member participate in some sports for an example, swimming, bowling, and Track and Field. This was located in Long Beach at Long City College.

June 10, 2023

La Goal Art Show

It was held at the Helms Bakery some individuals are paid arts

June 18, 2023

We participated Juneteenth celebration they talk about the history of Juneteenth. in 1865 when a group of enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, finally learned that they were free from the institution of slavery. On Thursday President Biden signed Juneteenth into law on June 17, 2021, to make Juneteenth a Federal Holiday.

June 29, 2023,

CAC attended the 40th Anniversary of WRC founding since 1983. It's an nonprofit organization that serves individuals with variety of disabilities.

6/30/2023

CAC went to the Tina Turner Musical. It told her story and past away at the age of 83 years old on May 23, 2023.

July 10, 2023,

Guest speaker -Garrett the founder of Homies. He talks about affordable housing for individual that's disable.

July 15,2023

Some CAC members graduation from Leadership Academy Training. It was located in Long Beach. We received certificates for perfect attendance and completion. Some of us give speeches on how we like the training, what we learn in the training. Jane Borochoff the Executive Director, kris Zerhusen HCBS Special, Andy Ponce to discussed the 6 Annual CAC Holiday Party that we are having December 15, 2023. Vanda Young a WRC Board came to CAC. Last thing is we have Participate in drum circle this helps you to relax and learn the sounds.

SEPTEMBER SELF ADVOCACY CALENDAR

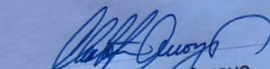
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<div>FOR MORE INFO CONTACT LINDA BUTLER (310) 258-4245</div>				1. PUBLIC RELATION @ 1250 S LA BREA AVE LOS ANGELES (CROSS STREET Dockweiler) 5PM-7PM
4. <div>HOLIDAY</div>	5. CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEE REGISTER ZOOM CALL 5PM-6PM	6. INDEPENDENT GROUP @ WESTFIELD FOX HILL MALL 6000 SEPULVEDA BLVD CULVER CITY (MEET BY POPEYES CHICKEN) GET ACCESS IN FRONT OF MACY'S) 5PM-7PM	7. LINDBERG PARK 5041 RHODA WAY CULVER CITY (CROSS STREET RHODA WAY) 5PM-7PM	8. WELLNESS GROUP @ EL POLLO LOCO 5529 SEPULVEDA BLVD (CROSS STREET BERRYMAN) 5PM-7PM
11. ZOOM CALL GUEST SPEAKER WELSEY WITHERSPOON 7PM-8PM	12. POLITICAL ACTION 5PM-6PM	13. WRC BOARD MEETING (REGISTER FOR THE BOARD) 6:30PM-8PM	14. SCDD ZOOM CALL 1PM -3PM	15. TRAVEL CLUB @ ACADEMY MUSEUM OF MOTION PICTURES 6067 WILSHIRE BLVD LA (CROSS ST FAIRFAX AVE) 4PM-6PM
18. SHAKERS @ BURGER KING 10812 JEFFEERSON BLVD CULVER CITY (CROSS STREET COTA AVE) 5PM-7PM	19. CAC @ DR. PAUL CARLSON MEMORIAL PARK 10400 BRODDICK DR. CULVER CITY (CROSS STREET LE BOURGET AVE) 5PM-7PM	20. MOVERS HAMBURGER HABIT 11223 NATIONAL BLVD LOS ANGELES CROSS STREET SEPULVEDA BLVD) 5PM-7PM	21. VOLUNTEER INFORMATION @ ONO HAWAIIAN BBQ 10814 JEFFERSON BLVD CULVER CITY (CROSS STREET COTA AVE) 5PM-7PM	22. FRIENDSHIP NETWORK @ LINDBERG PARK 5041 RHODA WAY CULVER CITY (CROSS STREET RHODA WAY) 5PM-7PM
25.	26.	27.	28.	29.



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION
SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY & LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
SALA 2023

THIS CERTIFIES THAT
ESTHER KELSEY
Has successfully completed a six-month Systemic Advocacy
& Leadership Academy provided by the State Council on
Developmental Disabilities, Los Angeles Office

JULY 15, 2023


Christopher Arroyo
SCDD LA Regional Manager


Sofia Cervantes
SCDD LA Advocate


Albert Feliciano
SCDD LA Advocate

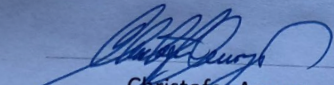


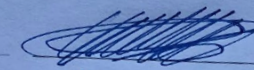
CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE
SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY & LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
SALA 2023

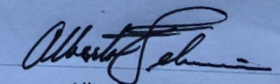


ESTHER KELSEY
In recognition of outstanding commitment and dedication
to SALA, reaching above 80% attendance and completion of
surveys and assignments during the course of six months

JULY 15, 2023


Christopher Arroyo
SCDD LA Regional Manager


Sofia Cervantes
SCDD LA Advocate


Albert Feliciano
SCDD LA Advocate

Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget Priorities

ISSUE: Consideration of ARCA's Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2024-25

BACKGROUND:

The Legislature and the Administration establish California's Budget for each fiscal year through a complex and lengthy process. The "Budget season" is generally thought to be the period of time from the release of the Governor's Proposed Budget in early January through the signing of the final Budget agreement, usually in late June. From July through December, preliminary steps are being taken by both the Administration and the Legislature to establish their priorities for the coming Fiscal Year.

ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION:

Given the Administration is engaged in the development of its January Budget now and legislative leadership is contemplating its own priorities, the sooner ARCA establishes its Budget priorities for FY 2023-24, the greater the likelihood there will be the opportunity to shape initial thinking and identify legislative champions for the coming year. This also positions ARCA staff to encourage partners in the developmental services system (e.g., the Lanterman Coalition) to adopt ARCA's priorities as they begin planning for their own advocacy in the fall.

Each year, ARCA strives to identify Budget priorities in three areas:

- 1) Expansion of direct services or benefits to individuals served by regional centers and their families;
- 2) Support of the service provider network; and,
- 3) Resources and/or flexibilities to enable regional centers to better support their communities.

Last year, ARCA's priorities included elimination of the Annual Family Fee and Family Cost Participation (AFPF/FCPP) programs, regular updates to service provider rate models, and modernization of the Core Staffing Formula (CSF). The final FY 2023-24 Budget included a one-year suspension of both the AFPF and FCPP, automatic updates to service provider rate models beginning in July 2024 in response to increases in statewide minimum wage, and funding service coordination for those ages 0-5 at appropriate levels, including a few positions at state staff costs.

During the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget development process, there was a great deal of discussion about how investments in the service system directly impacts and benefits those being served by it and their families.

While the state had surpluses over the last couple of years, a deficit emerged in Fiscal Year 2022-23 and is anticipated to continue at least in the coming year.

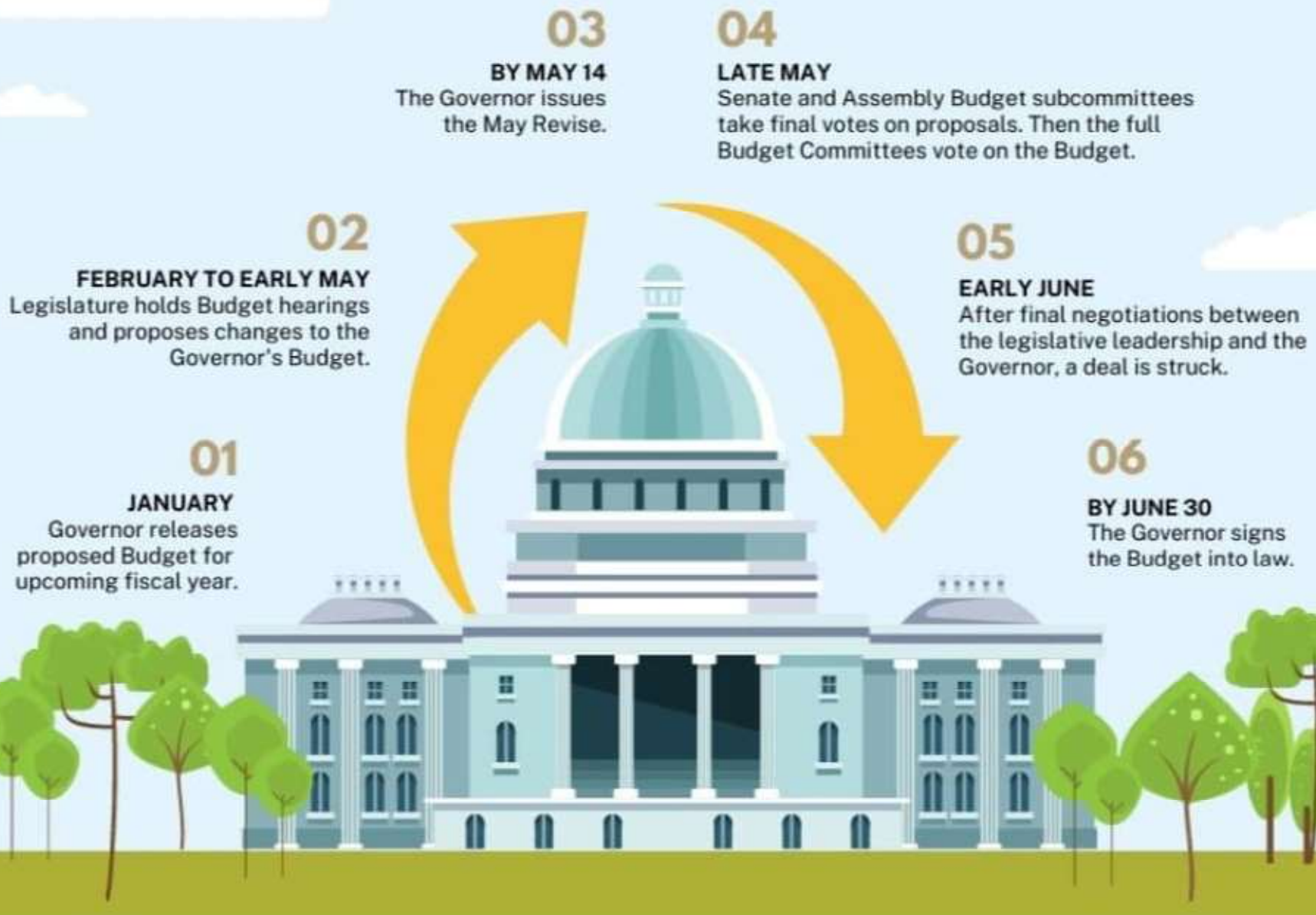
Building on the themes, successes, and challenges from the last Budget season, as well as understanding the current fiscal realities, the following proposed priorities are recommended for consideration:

- 1) Address housing needs through targeted prioritization of individuals served by regional centers in the administration of affordable housing projects funded by Housing and Community Development;
- 2) To address service access needs, update rate models in response to inflationary pressures and correct key rate model assumptions; and,
- 3) Enhance regional center responsiveness and available support by adequately funding all service coordination positions and committing to the development and implementation of a comprehensive Core Staffing Formula revision.

RECOMMENDATIONS: *Consider and approve FY 2024-25 ARCA Budget priorities*

ATTACHMENT(S): *California's State Budget Process Overview*

CALIFORNIA'S STATE BUDGET PROCESS





980 9th Street, Suite 1450, Sacramento, California 95814 • 916.446.7961 • www.arcanet.org

August 21, 2023

Assemblymember Tina McKinnor
1021 O Street, Ste. 5520
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 782 (McKinnor) – SUPPORT

Honorable Assemblymember McKinnor:

California's regional centers are a network of 21 community-based non-profits, represented by the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA). The regional centers coordinate services for, and advocate on behalf of, over 400,000 Californians with developmental disabilities. On behalf of ARCA, I wish to share our support for AB 782.

People with developmental disabilities have unique needs. One irreplaceable way to meet those needs is through flavored medications. For individuals with sensory (taste) needs, flavoring improves palatability and enables compliance with doctor-prescribed medications. Individuals with autism most commonly benefit (see [this Reel from @kaelynnvp](#)¹ on a different, but related example).

For others, a swallowing disorder makes taking a pill physically impossible. Their medication must be powdered (dissolved) to be consumed. Merely let a pill linger too long on the tongue to immediately understand the issue. But cost and normal administration methods mean manufacturers do not generally flavor most medications. Having a pharmacy do so is a reasonable accommodation that ensures maintaining one's health does not have to leave a bitter taste in the mouth.

Limiting this to only compounding pharmacies means access will be highly limited, disproportionately harming people with developmental disabilities. We strongly support AB 782, thank you for authoring this bill, and urge its favorable consideration. If you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact Daniel Savino in our office at dsavino@arcanet.org or (916) 446-7961.

Sincerely,

/s/Amy Westling

Executive Director

Cc: Sierra Shepard, Legislative Aide, Office of Assemblymember McKinnor
Jane Borochoff, Executive Director, Westside Regional Center

¹ https://www.instagram.com/p/CvNpFBYg_-H